

PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION: NRS 07.329

APPLICANT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
Operations Division, James A. Bodron
167 North Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
901-544-0729

LOCATION: The proposed alterations are located at various locations along the Mississippi River from River Miles 715 to 905, the Wolf River Harbor and the McKellar Lake Harbor.

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The proposed alteration would impact the Mississippi River, Wolf River Harbor and McKellar Lake Harbor. The river and harbors are located in the Mississippi River watershed (HUC 08010100). The Mississippi River has been assessed as Exceptional Tennessee Waters (i.e., high quality) due to the presence of the federally endangered Pallid Sturgeon and state threatened Blue Sucker. The river has also been assessed as impaired due to contaminated sediments, loss of biological integrity due to siltation and other habitat alterations. The Corps has performed sediment sampling for several years and has stated that the levels are consistently within acceptable levels. McKellar Lake Harbor has also been assessed as impaired due to contaminated sediments, loss of biological integrity due to siltation, low dissolved oxygen, and *Escherichia coli*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to perform maintenance dredging on an as-needed basis along the Mississippi River, the Wolf River Harbor, and the McKellar Lake Harbor. The maintenance dredging is authorized under the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928 and amendments June 15, 1936, June 28, 1938, August 18, 1944, and December 22, 1994. The dredging maintains a navigation channel 12 ft. deep and 300 ft. wide. However, present funding only allows for navigation channel 9 ft. deep and 300 ft. wide. The applicant is seeking a permit renewal that allows the dredging on an as-needed basis for another five (5) years.

The Mississippi River currently has a total of 10 million cubic yards of sandy material removed annually from various locations. Dredging locations over the past years are listed in the table below. Due to the movement of bedload in the river it is not possible to predict the exact dredging locations. A dustpan hydraulic dredger would perform the dredging in the river. The material dredged would be discharged into upland confined disposal facility via a pipeline system when available. If no upland disposal site is available, the material would be discharged back into the Mississippi River.

Location Name	River Mile	Quantity Dredged Million Cubic Yards
Winchester Towhead	901	0.5
Linwood Bend	840	0.5
Kate Aubrey-Island 30	789	1.0
Craighead Driver	780	2.0
Randolph Bluff	770	2.0
Redman Bar & Sycamore Chute	743	2.0
Memphis Front	738	1.5
Vice President Island	732	0.5

The two harbors currently have a total of 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment removed annually. A cutterhead dredger would perform the dredging in the harbors. Materials removed from McKellar Lake

Harbor would be disposed of at an upland disposal site adjacent to the harbor. Materials removed from the Wolf River Harbor would be discharged back into the Mississippi River downstream of the harbor.

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 1200-4-3-.06), the division has determined that the proposed activity will not result in degradation to water quality.

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE: Various quadrangles throughout the Mississippi River from RM 715 to 905.

PERMIT COORDINATOR: Trent Thomas

No decision has been made whether to issue or deny this permit. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of this permit application and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the department. Written comments must be received within **thirty days of the date that this notice is posted**. Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced.

Interested persons may also request in writing that the department hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be filed within the comment period, indicate the interest of the person requesting it, the reasons that the hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the department will hold a public hearing.

The permit application, supporting documentation including detailed plans and maps, and related comments are available at the department's address for review and/or copying. The department's address is:

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control, Natural Resources Section
7th Floor L & C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243

In deciding whether to issue or deny a permit, the department will consider all comments on record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

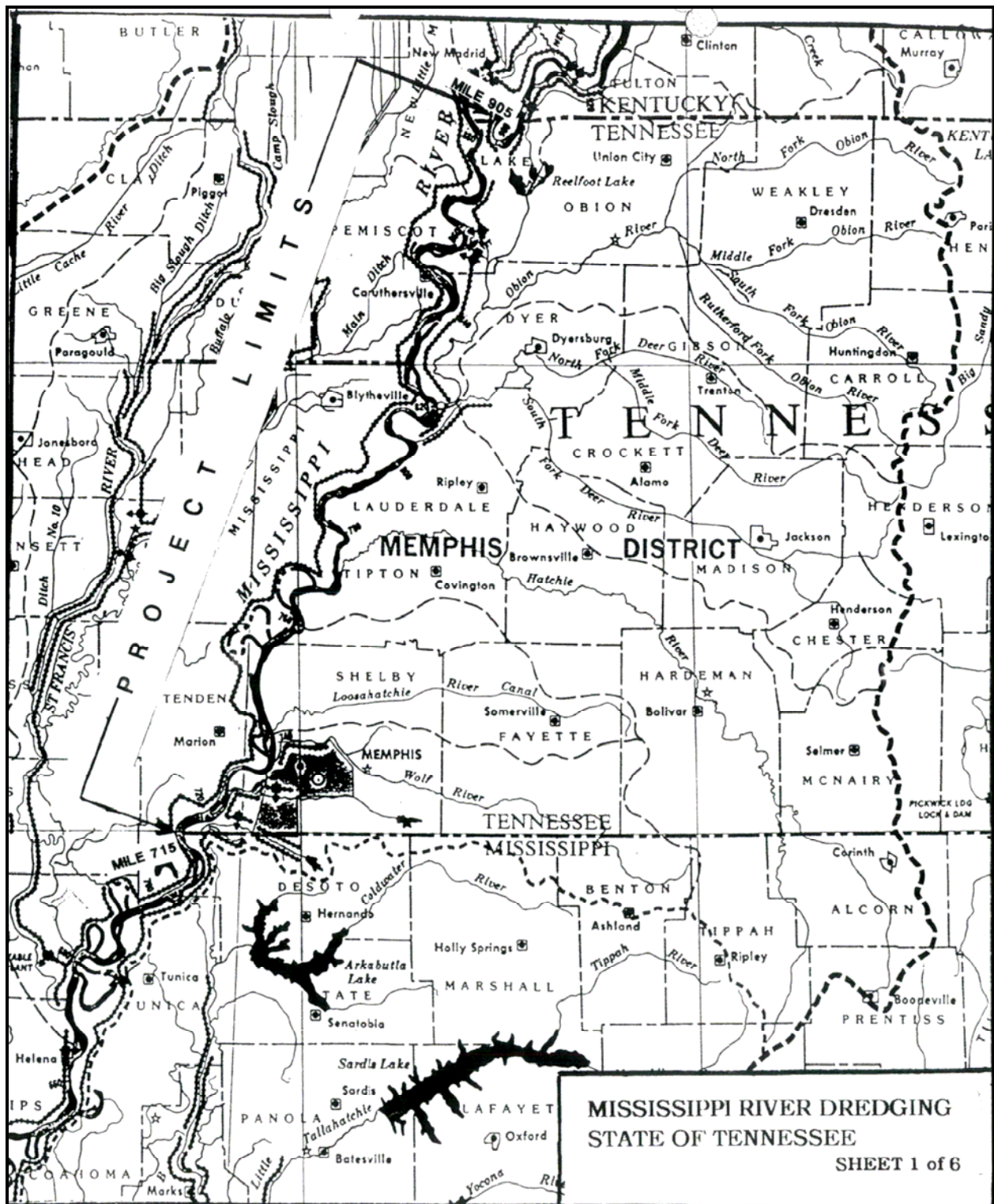


Figure 1: Limits of proposed maintenance dredging

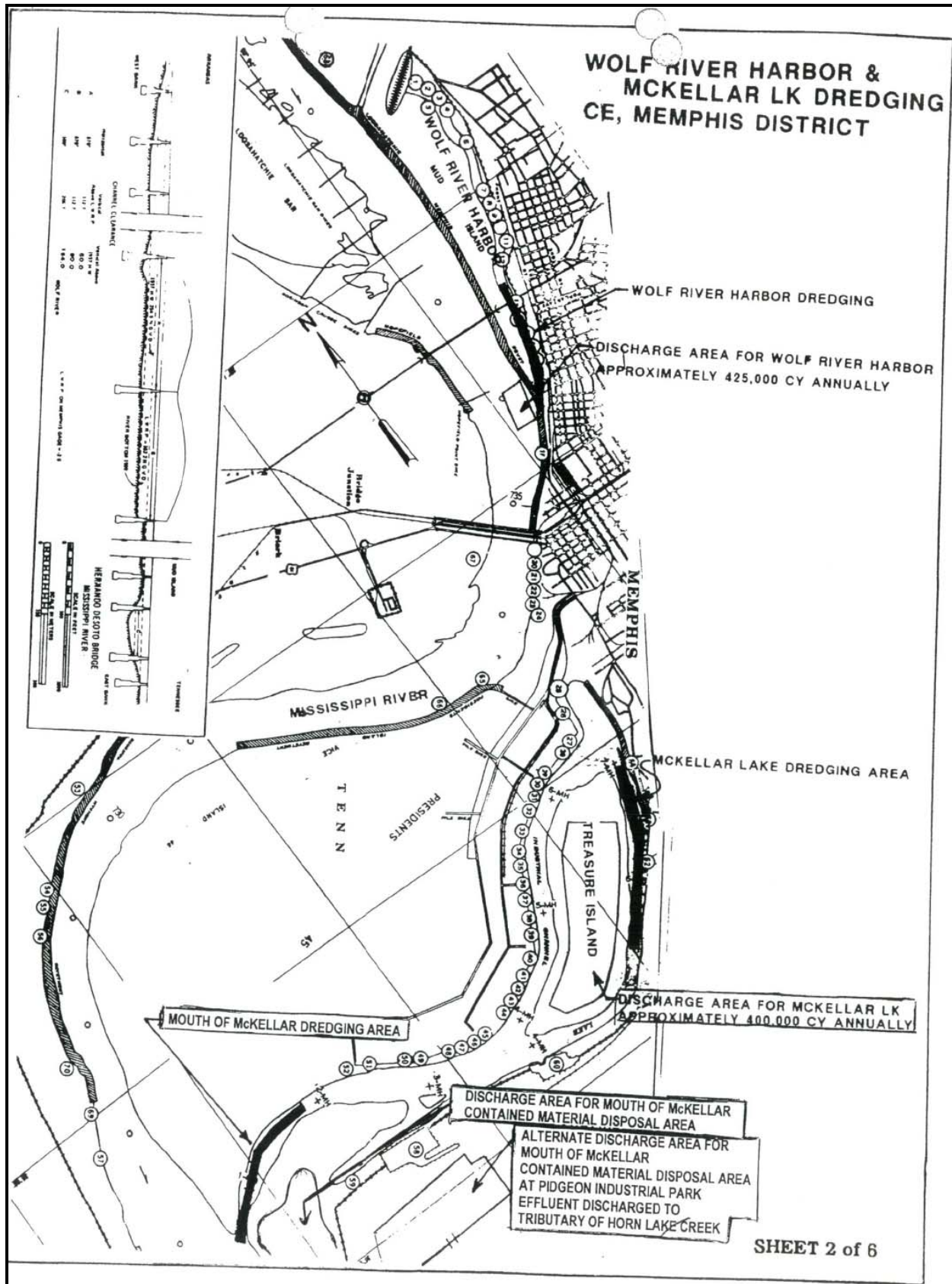


Figure 2: McKellar Lake Harbor dredging and disposal details

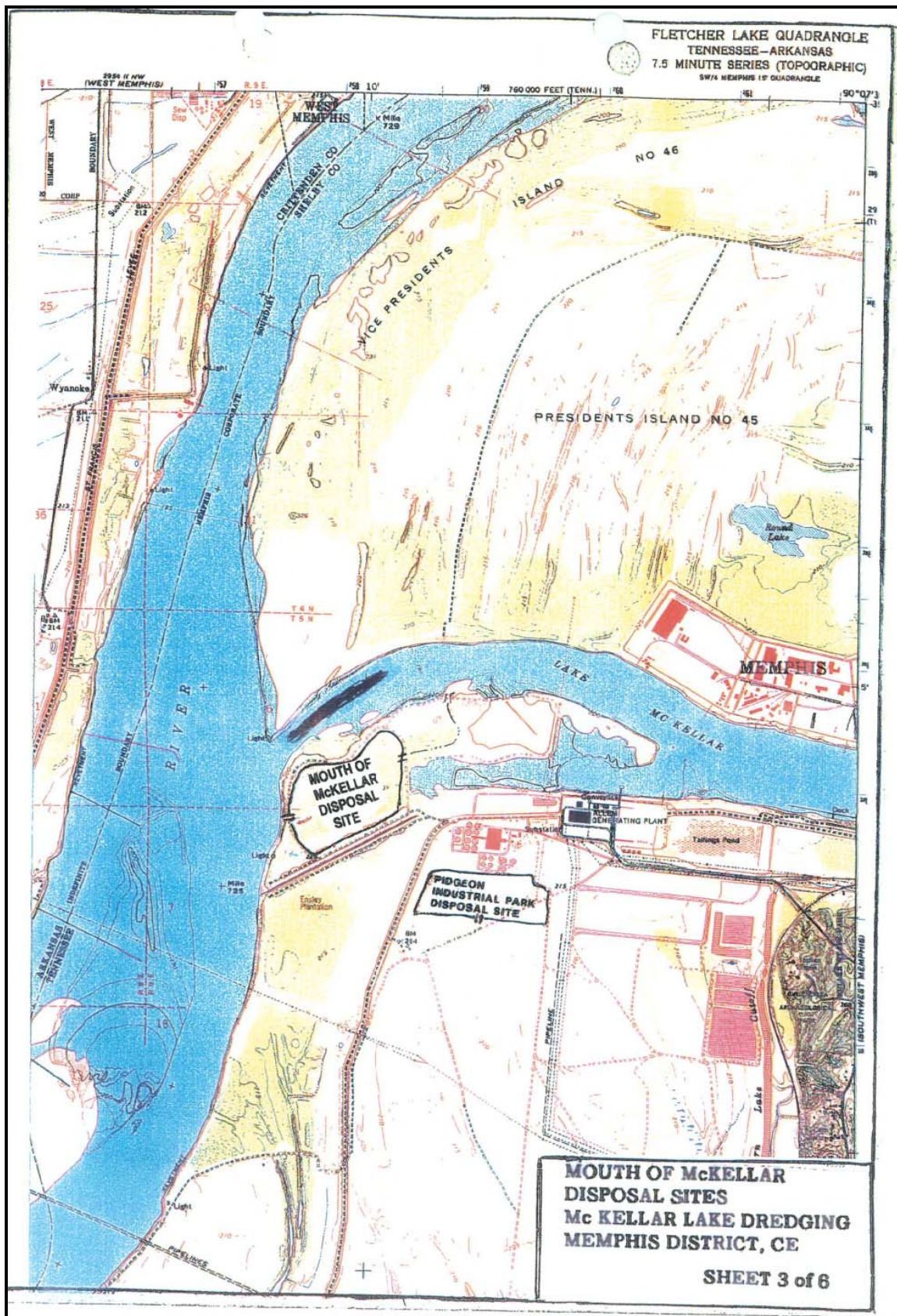


Figure 3: McKellar Lake Harbor dredging details

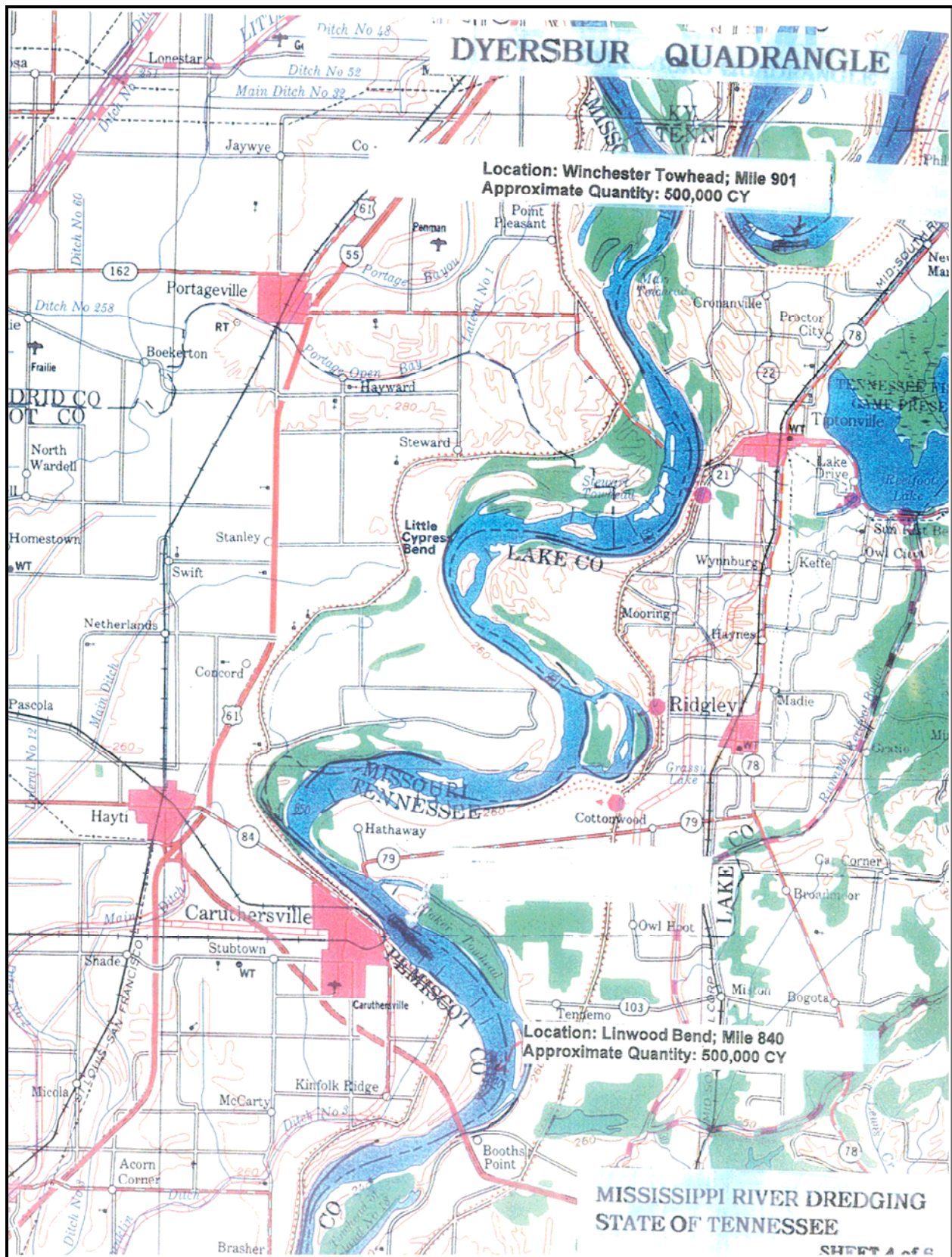


Figure 4: Location of previous dredging sites along the Mississippi River

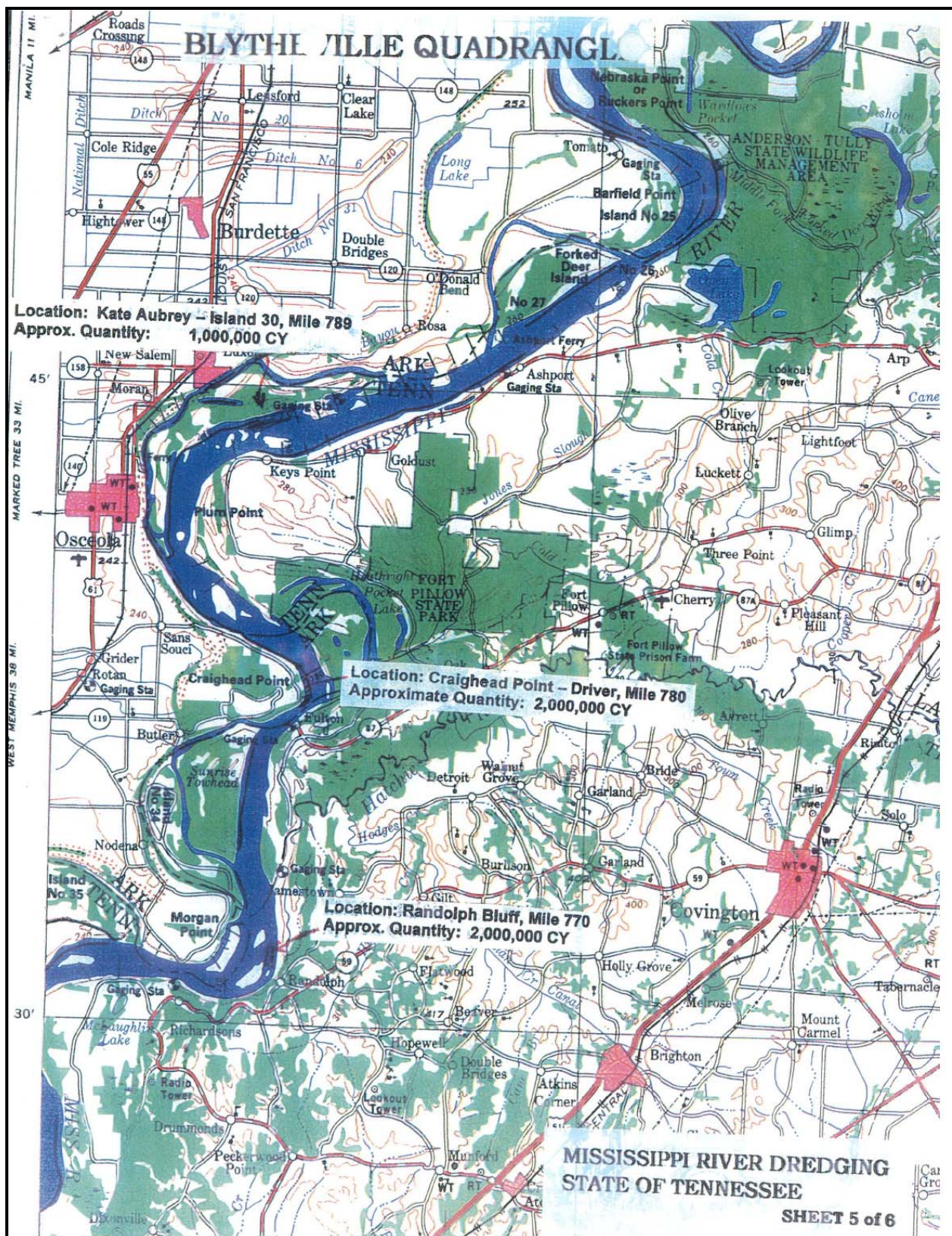


Figure 5: Location of previous dredging sites along the Mississippi River continued

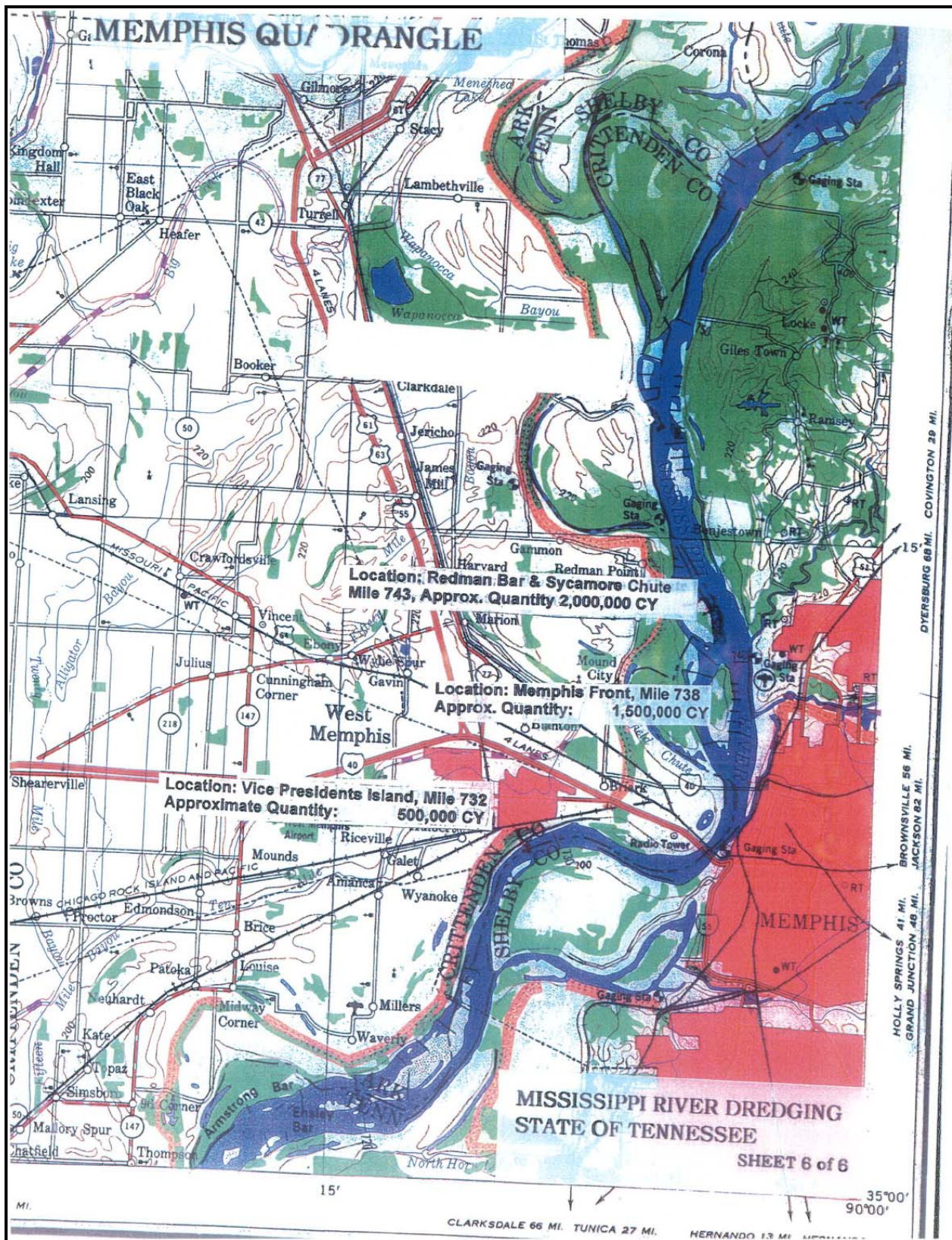


Figure 6: Location of previous dredging sites along the Mississippi River continued